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**From:** Enck, Judith  
**Sent:** Tue 2/23/2016 2:32:44 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: News Clips (PFOA)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Region2 PAD News <[Region2\\_PAD\\_News@epa.gov](mailto:Region2_PAD_News@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** February 23, 2016 at 5:59:50 AM PST  
**To:** "R2 EPA Region 2 (EPA Staff)" <[R2\\_EPA\\_Region\\_2\\_EPA\\_Staff@epa.gov](mailto:R2_EPA_Region_2_EPA_Staff@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** News Clips (PFOA)

**WNYT: Officials knew about Taconic well PFOA contamination; county testing water**

02/22/2016 12:32 PM

PETERSBURGH - Corey Neil Manchester just became a proud Petersburg father. Friday, he was picking up bottled water to limit his baby's exposure to cancer-linked chemical PFOA.

"It's crazy, makes you think, don't it?," said Manchester while carrying his two gallons out of town hall.

The state suggested the 74 households on town water stop drinking from the tap on Saturday, but Rensselaer County says suspected contaminator Taconic discovered its own well was contaminated with PFOA years ago.

"We were aware that they put a carbon filtration system in. In fact, we had to approve that system," said Kathy Jimino, Rensselaer County Executive.

County Executive Kathy Jimino says Taconic also told the state. That's why the government decided to test the town's water supply this month.

"I was not surprised that the tests came back with something in it. The fact that it was below did not surprise me either," said Alan Webster, Petersburg town board.

The PFOA level found in town water was around 95 parts per trillion (ppt). The EPA recommended to Hoosick Falls that they only drink water below the 100 ppt mark. Levels there were measured over 600 ppt.

But before that, the EPA said 400 ppt was an acceptable level.

"Remember, that this is a non-regulated contaminant. And so, until the EPA said a few weeks back that this is very much a concern, we were all operating on the guidance that the state provided," said Jimino.

Jimino hopes the EPA sets a new and clear PFOA standard. Long term PFOA exposure has been linked to cancer.

"We really need the federal government and the state government to do that and let us know what is safe. So that we can make sure the water delivered to people is safe," said Jimino.

In the spirit of being safe, the county is testing the 47 homes on private wells within a half mile of Taconic for free. Each test costs the county \$275. Taconic owns 11 homes in that half-mile radius and over the weekend, the county says it installed carbon filter systems in all them.

Rensselaer County is also testing for PFOA in each public water supply in the county. The results for water in Berlin and Troy are back. And the county says their water is safe from PFOA. Schaticoke's test results are due back at the end of the week. So are the results of the first private wells. The county is using St Peter's Bender Laboratory in Albany to examine the water. The water is actually examined in a Florida lab. The companies can handle 21 tests a week and they take 5-10 days to complete.

Taconic referred us to PR firm Pierce Communications Monday. Piece Communications Vice President Jo Ann LeSage Nelson declined an interview Friday on their behalf, but sent the statement below. Erin Brockovich and law firm Weitz and Luxenberg are expanding their PFOA investigation from Hoosick Falls into Petersburg.

Water will be available at the town hall from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

"Taconic is in the process of conducting a site evaluation and has asked NYSDEC and NYSDOH for their guidance. The company is fully cooperating with both agencies and will take whatever steps these agencies deem appropriate regarding this matter. In the meantime, in an abundance of caution, Taconic is supplying free bottled water to the residents of the 74 households in Petersburg that are on the municipal water supply." - Taconic Spokesperson Piece Communications Vice President Jo Ann LeSage Nelson

TIME WARNER CABLE NEWS

### **Petersburgh Residents Pick Up Bottled Water After PFOA Contamination**

By Emily DeFeciani

Updated Monday, February 22, 2016 at 06:48 PM EST

Officials: Don't Drink Tap Water in Petersburg, PFOA Found

Updated 02/21/2016 05:36 AM

The town of Petersburg is the latest Rensselaer County municipality to find PFOA in its water supply. Emily DeFeciani reports from the town hall, where residents have been picking up bottled water all morning.

PETERSBURGH, N.Y. -- "Why aren't these companies taking care of their responsibilities and disposing of these chemicals properly? This really shouldn't be happening, you know? It shouldn't happen," said Petersburg resident Jessica Engwer.

Just 10 miles south of Hoosick Falls, the town of Petersburg has become the next municipality forced to address a PFOA-contaminated water supply.

"It's been like this for how long and nobody knew about it?" Engwer asked. "And what issues could it be causing? Obviously a lot of concerns."

Saturday, the Department of Health confirmed that levels of the chemical that's been linked to cancer were found in the town's water supply, impacting about 75 homes so far.

"We lost a child to cancer a while back, and I would hate to think it was the water that took him," said Petersburg resident Janet Snyder.

As of now, officials say PFOA levels detected are below the current federal advisory of 100 parts per trillion. Still, the town is providing bottled water for residents to be safe, rather than sorry.

"Simply out of an abundance of caution. People are probably perfectly safe using the water as it is right now, but people have concerns," explained Town Supervisor Peter Schaaphok.

"It's great that they're taking precautions and not just leaving us to deal with it on our own," said Engwer.

The water has been donated by Hannaford as well as Taconic, the local plastics company that alerted the DOH that groundwater at its facility in Petersburg was contaminated with PFOA. Gallons will continue to be provided as more extensive testing is done.

"We're just waiting for further word, and we'll take it from there and hope for the best," Snyder said.

### **Petersburgh residents want answers concerning PFOA levels in their water**

By Nicole Hart

February 22, 2016, 7:31 pm

PETERSBURGH, N.Y. (NEWS10) – People who live and work in the town of Petersburg

want answers quickly when it comes to the tests of the PFOA levels in the water.

Officials have to be prepared for two scenarios, PFOA levels comeback above or below the EPA threshold of 100 parts per trillion.

Donna Warner lives in Petersburg, and like most, is worried about the PFOA levels found in the water there.

"My initial concern was my child and I live here so initially I was worried about our health", said Warner.

Second, was her business, Papa's Pizzeria. This is the only restaurant in the area and her only source of income.

"I spoke with the town supervisor and someone from the health dept. and asked them what do I do?", said Warner.

They told her she can stay open but needs to change a few things.

"I can't use the tap water for any food prep any of our washing of the produce, any of that stuff", said Warner.

So for now, the town has given Warner and everyone else who uses town water, gallons of water every day.

The town is also doing prepping of their own while they wait for more test results to come in.

"Let's say the other test comes back in the 80s or something, then I'd be pretty confident that the state would say 'hey its fine.' If it's up in the 90s again they may want to come up with some other plan", said Petersburg Town Supervisor Peter Schaaphok.

Officials said Taconic Plastics is the source of contamination but the testing will allow everyone to see how far up or down stream it has gone.

"The only thing that I can guess with Taconic is that the water in their wells is probably naturally not very nice water because we have various wells in the area where the water is lousy. They have known since 2003 at least. That's when they stopped using PFOA and that there may be something in their water. They'll have to answer that. I can't speak for them", said Schaaphok.

NEWS10 ABC has reached out to Taconic for a response and so far have not heard back. The first of many meetings is scheduled for Monday morning and more tests results are also expected this week.

For information on how you can get water or have your questions/concerns answered, look at the contact list below:

State Hotline Set to Answer Residents' Questions – 800-801-8092

Call Diedra at Town Hall at: (518) 658-3777 x 10 and leave a message

Email [DeidraM@Petersburgh.org](mailto:DeidraM@Petersburgh.org)

Or message the town on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Town-of-Petersburgh/603171036422861>

You can also call Town Supervisor, Peter Schaaphok (518) 658-3777

Time Warner Cable News

### **Hoosick Falls Water Filtration System Flushing Begins Wednesday**

By TWC News Web Staff

Monday, February 22, 2016 at 09:20 AM EST

Flushing of the temporary water filtration system in Hoosick Falls is expected to begin Wednesday.

Mechanical issues delayed work that was originally planned for this past Friday.

Crews have been working to bring clean water to residents, after high levels of the potentially harmful chemical PFOA were found in the village's water supply.

The chemical was traced back to the Saint Gobain Plastics Plant in the village.

### **Installation of water filters begins for folks in Hoosick**

By Lindsay Nielsen

February 22, 2016, 6:56 pm

HOOSICK, N.Y. (NEWS10) – Homeowners in the town of Hoosick are beginning to install filter systems to help make their water safer to use.

Although a long-term cleanup plan to remove the PFOA contamination in the town of Hoosick has not been established, some homeowners with private wells can now receive a filtration system to remove the chemical from the water.

"We thought we would be out of range and didn't think it would be an issue for us," Seth Bird said.

Bird was one of the first homeowners to receive a carbon filtration system following PFOA contamination in the village of Hoosick Falls and in the town of Hoosick. He has not

received his well test results, but he didn't want to waste any time as his home is already up for sale.

"It's a big concern that we won't be able to sell the house; that people won't even look at the house," he said. "Just because our address is Hoosick Falls, they will not even bother to look, so hopefully, this will help."

On Monday, Department of Environmental Conservation crews installed the filtration system. DEC Construction Inspector Scott Deyette said the tiny black carbon particles will remove the PFOA.

"The PFOA would adhere to that and stay in the carbon rather than travel through," he explained.

Three hours later and the system was up and running. Deyette said he's never installed a system for the purpose of removing PFOA until now.

"It has never posed an issue in New York State, at least," he said.

Deyette said 136 people have requested the systems so far. They are all being paid for by the state.

"On a daily basis, we're updated with new names and new addresses, and we're really going to be ramping up this week," he said.

People who live in the town of Hoosick and have private wells can get carbon filtration systems by calling 1-800-801-8092.

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